

1. Hydrangeas that have become leggy and overgrown may be cut back severely without damaging them.
2. Potted plants that have dried out should be deep-soaked in a bucket of water to saturate the roots. Many house plants benefit by similar soaking occasionally.
3. Camellias are items to shop for this month. Many are in bloom or just coming in bloom.
4. Prune grapes and berries now if you haven't already. The idea with berries is to cut out the canes which bore fruit last year and to leave the rest to bear fruit next year.
5. Perennial vegetables may be planted now. Asparagus, artichoke and rhubarb are the big three of this group.

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State Assembly Ignores Strict Seniority System

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL, Assemblyman, 46th District
On Monday, Jan. 2, I took the oath of office again and began my 17th year in the Assembly. Unlike the Congress of the United States, where seniority in office is all-important in all respects, there never has been any strict seniority system in the California State Legislature. Our State Senate, in the past has unofficially paid some attention to seniority but the Assembly never has.

Personally, I think this is a good thing because the mere fact that a man has been in office for a long time does not necessarily mean that he should have the power to expedite or slow up the passage of legislation, or have a better of-

ice and a larger staff than his colleagues.
In my case, the principal advantage of my long years in office is the knowledge I have gained by experience. For example, when I receive a letter from one of my constituents, if I do not know the answer I know how and where to get the information in a hurry.

Several people have asked me this question: "Now that we have a Republican Governor and more Republicans in both houses of the Legislature, will this help you?"
It is a matter of record that during his entire time in office, Governor Edmund G. Brown signed into law all of my bills, which

reached his desk, except two, which I asked him to veto because I decided that those two bills did not belong in the statute books. Earl Warren and Goodwin Knight, as governors, signed into law all my bills which reached their desks.

As to the Democrats in the Assembly and the Senate, I have never had any trouble with them on a basis of their political affiliation. From time to time, some of them disagreed with me as to the issues, just as Republicans did, but this is a situation which exists in any parliamentary body.

When I sit as a member of a committee, hearing bills presented, I vote on the bills according to the issues, not according to the authorship of the bills. I follow the same practice in voting on the floor of the Assembly.

There are two types of bills which I study very carefully. The first type consists of bills which say "Section So-and-So of the Blank Code is repealed."
The other type is the long, thick bill with many words. Buried in the bill may be a very dangerous feature which is the real purpose of the bill, the rest being garbage.

Newspapers, television, and radio do a remarkably good job of informing people of the major items of legislation before us. However, they are not always able to cover bills in detail, which sometimes gives rise to misleading ideas on the part of my constituents. This causes people to write frantic letters to me under the impression that we are about to enact some law which will do them harm.

It is our sworn duty to protect the rights of the people of California, not to abuse them. We are not perfect, but I believe that the work of the California Legislature can be compared with that of any other State without apology. Evidence of this is found in the fact that other States send delegations to observe our work.

Finally, everyone naturally likes his home but I am glad to be back in the thick of things, helping to solve the multitude of problems of our very dynamic State.

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